

## MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

## NEWS

### Coming Meetings

*American Heart Association*, Kansas City, May 12, 1936. Gertrude P. Wood, 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York, office secretary.

*American Medical Association*, Kansas City, Missouri, May 11-15, 1936. Olin West, M. D., 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, secretary.

*American Surgical Association*, Chicago, May 7-9, 1936. Vernon C. David, M. D., 59 East Madison Street, Chicago, secretary.

*California Medical Association*, Coronado, May 25-28, 1936. Frederick C. Warnshuis, M. D., 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, secretary.

*New Mexico Medical Society*, Carlsbad, May 6-8, 1936. L. B. Cohenour, M. D., 219 West Central Avenue, Albuquerque, secretary.

*Texas State Medical Association*, Houston, May 25-28, 1936. Holman Taylor, M. D., 1404 West El Paso Street, Fort Worth, secretary.

### Medical Broadcasts\*

The *American Medical Association* broadcasts over WEAF, the Red network instead of the Blue, as formerly, and certain additional stations of the National Broadcasting Company at 5 p. m., eastern standard time (4 p. m. central standard time, 3 p. m. mountain time, 2 p. m. Pacific time), each Tuesday, presenting a dramatized program with incidental music under the general theme of "Medical Emergencies and How They Are Met." The title of the program is "Your Health." The program is recognizable by a musical salutation through which the voice of the announcer offers a toast: "Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Health!" The theme of the program is repeated each week in the opening announcement, which informs the listener that the same medical knowledge and the same doctors that are mobilized for the meeting of grave medical emergencies are available in every community, day and night, for the promotion of the health of the people. Each program will include a brief talk dealing with the central theme of the individual broadcast.

*Pacific Network*.—The stations on the Pacific network are KGO KPO KFI KGW KOMO KHQ KFSD KTAR.

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*San Francisco County Medical Society*.—The radio broadcast program for the San Francisco County Medical Society for the month of May is as follows:

Tuesday, May 5—KYA, 6 p. m.  
Tuesday, May 12—KYA, 6 p. m.  
Tuesday, May 19—KYA, 6 p. m.  
Tuesday, May 26—KYA, 6 p. m.

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*Los Angeles County Medical Association*.—The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of May is as follows:

Saturday, May 2—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.  
Saturday, May 2—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.  
Tuesday, May 5—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.  
Saturday, May 9—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.

\* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Saturday, May 9—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, May 12—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.

Saturday, May 16—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.

Saturday, May 16—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, May 19—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.

Saturday, May 23—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.

Saturday, May 23—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, May 26—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.

Saturday, May 30—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.

Saturday, May 30—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

**National Hospital Day.**—Hospitals throughout the nation are making preparations to observe May 12, the birthday anniversary of Florence Nightingale, as "National Hospital Day." On this day the public is invited to visit accredited hospitals in their respective communities. These hospitals will keep "open house" in all departments and furnish special guides to escort visitors and explain the intricacies and functions of the many technical and scientific appurtenances of the modern hospital.

National Hospital Day was inaugurated May 12, 1920, on the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, who is regarded as the founder of the nursing profession. The "day" has been observed each year since with the endorsement of the President, governors of states, and mayors of cities. A committee of national scope, appointed each year by the president of the American Hospital Association, promotes the effective celebration of the day. The California members of this committee this year are: Mrs. Lola M. Armstrong, R. N., editor of *Western Hospital Review*, San Francisco; G. W. Olson, assistant superintendent of the Los Angeles County General Hospital, and Mrs. Leonora Warriner, R. N., Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital.

**The American Association for the Study and Control of Rheumatic Diseases.**—The American Association for the Study and Control of Rheumatic Diseases will hold its fifth conference on rheumatic diseases at the Phillips Hotel, third floor, on May 11 at nine o'clock, in Kansas City.

An educational symposium on the differential diagnosis of diseases of joints follows:

Russell Haden—Clinical grouping and diagnostic approach to the patient with joint conditions.

Edwin P. Jordan—Differential diagnosis of joint diseases from the standpoint of pathology.

Ralph Boots—The essential features in differential diagnosis of atrophic and hypertrophic arthritis.

Joseph L. Miller—Differential diagnosis between Strumpell Marie and osteoarthritis of the spine.

Stafford Warren—Differential diagnostic points of gonorrheal arthritis.

Frank D. Dickson—Differential diagnostic points of tuberculous arthritis, especially tuberculous polyarthritis.

Philip S. Hench—Differential diagnostic facts about gout, distinguishing it from other joint diseases.

Willis Campbell—Differential diagnosis of traumatic arthritis.

C. H. Slocumb—Differential diagnosis of fibrositis.

William J. Kerr—Differential diagnostic points of constitutional conditions mistaken for arthritis, which produce skeletal aches and pains.

**American Heart Association.**—The twelfth scientific session of the American Heart Association will be held on Tuesday, May 12, from 9:30 to 5:30 p. m., at the Hotel Phillips, Kansas City, Missouri. The program will be devoted to cardiac insufficiency.

**The American Neisserian Medical Society.**—The American Neisserian Medical Society will hold its second annual meeting on May 18, in the Hotel Statler, Boston, Massachusetts. All who are interested are cordially invited.

**Two Scientists and Inventor to Get Medals and One Thousand Dollars.**—Two scientists with records of achievement in the fight against disease, and the inventor of the automobile self-starter, will get John Scott memorial awards of bronze medals and \$1,000 each.

The three are: Dr. James Ewing of Memorial Hospital, New York, for his research in classifying tumors, both malignant and benign; George F. Kelly, engineer of New York, for his invention of the dust trap which saves mine and tunnel workers from the perils of silicosis; Charles Franklin Kettering of Dayton, Ohio, vice-president in charge of research of General Motors Corporation, for his invention of the self-starter.

The awards were provided by a bequest of John Scott, Edinburgh chemist, who died in 1816, for the recognition of "ingenious men or women."

**New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital.** At recent meetings of the Clinical Society of the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital, the following program was presented:

"Some Improved Methods in Plastic Reparative Surgery" by J. Eastman Sheehan, M. D. (Illustrated by cinematograph film in natural color.)

"Diagnosis and Treatment of Carcinoma of the Colon and Rectum" by Richard B. Cattell, M. D., of Lahey Clinic, Boston, Massachusetts.

"The Present Status of Endocrine Therapy in Gynecology" by Archibald D. Campbell, M. D., of Montreal, Canada.

"The Genesis and Surgical Treatment of Hypertension" by George W. Crile, M. D., of Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Roger Anderson of Seattle, Washington, gave a special afternoon lecture on: (1) "An Anatomic Non-operative Method of Treating Fractures of Both Bones of the Forearm." (2) "Ambulatory Method of Treating Fractures of the Femur."

**Distribution of Milk in Eastern Flood Districts.**—A noteworthy contribution to public health during the recent flood emergency was the efficient and often extraordinary maintenance of deliveries of pure milk under the most adverse conditions. Reports from health officials and medical authorities in the flood-stricken regions state that in practically all instances pasteurized fresh milk was delivered to persons while they were still unable to evacuate their homes in the flooded areas.

In the Pittsburgh area milk deliveries were made in power boats, rowboats, canoes, flat boats, and all manner of water craft. All milk was pasteurized, and when lights failed, work in the plants proceeded by candle light, with executives manning equipment along with the plant forces, and office staffs turned into helpers. In spite of the force with which the flood swept into Pittsburgh, the trained distributors of milk met all requirements of state and city boards of health.

In New England airplanes were used to fly spare parts of pasteurization equipment to places out of the flood zone, where milk could be prepared for use of flood victims. In Connecticut the Hartford milk plants were put out of commission by failure of power, but milk plants in unaffected areas pasteurized ample supplies of milk which were taken into Hartford by trucks carrying rowboats, through roundabout ways. In one case trucks had to travel a round trip of 250 miles to get milk to East Hartford by avoiding flood waters, a trip that in normal times is only six miles.

**World's Sports Physicians Hold Congress Before Olympic Games.**—An international sports physicians' congress will be held by the International Sports Physicians' Association in Berlin from July 27 to August 1, to tie up with the XIth Olympic Games. Twenty-one nations, including the United States, have so far accepted the invitation of the international body, which has appointed the delegates to represent the various countries.

For the United States Dr. John Brown, Jr., of New York, and Dr. R. Tait McKenzie of Philadelphia will participate. The other countries to be represented, besides those whose acceptance is still outstanding, are: Argentine, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, England, France, Holland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Austria, Poland, Roumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary.

Among the subjects to be treated at the congress will be metabolism, circulation, respiration, training, hygiene, psychology, traumatology, medical and recreational gymnastics, constitution, biometrics, sport hygiene and aviation hygiene and biological and social questions.

**Social Hygienic Society Elects Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur as President.**—Regretfully accepting the decision of Dr. Edward L. Keyes that for health reasons he must resign after twelve years of leadership, the Nominating Committee counted itself fortunate in persuading Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, long a vice-president, to accept the president's chair for 1936. Other officers elected at the annual meeting on January 15 were as follows: Vice-presidents, Professor C.-E. A. Winslow of Connecticut, Dr. Albert J. Chesley of Minnesota, Dr. Elizabeth Campbell of Ohio, and Dr. John H. Musser of Louisiana; secretary, Mrs. Henry D. Dakin; treasurer, Timothy N. Pfeiffer. Members of the Board of Directors elected were: For the term ending December 31, 1936: Miss Florence M. Read, Judge Lawrence B. Dunham. For the term ending December 31, 1938: Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw, Doctors Louis I. Dublin, Donald R. Hooker, Thomas Parran, Jr., William A. White, Livingston Farrand, and William F. Snow.

Commenting on the presidency, the *Journal of Social Hygiene* says: "Doctor Wilbur's election guarantees the continuation of the prestige and influence brought to the organization by its previous chief officers, Charles W. Eliot, Abram W. Harris, Dr. William H. Welch, Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, and Dr. Keyes."

**Gas Successfully Replacing Air in Brain Operation.** Ethylene gas as a substitute for air in the procedure known as encephalography, or removal of cerebrospinal fluid from the brain and spinal chord, has been developed at the University of California Medical School with marked success in a series of considerably over one hundred patients, it was recently announced by the school's department of surgery. The procedure consists of replacing the fluid with the gas, under carefully controlled conditions, and permits the brain itself to be visualized by x-ray.

In the diagnosis of such conditions as brain tumors, epilepsy, or the aftermath of brain injuries, the method has proved of invaluable assistance. The discomfort and period of hospitalization generally incident to this procedure have been greatly reduced by the new development. The ethylene gas is absorbed and disappears in a few hours, whereas when air was used it remained present several days. The ethylene gas also has a mildly sedative effect in certain cases, and this has further tended to decrease the discomfort.

The introduction of air to displace the cerebrospinal fluid has been a common procedure since 1919 at other medical centers. Various other gases, and also radio-opaque fluids have been repeatedly tried as substitutes for air, but with indifferent results.

Results of the procedure, used in fifty-three cases, were presented to the American College of Surgeons at its meeting here last fall. Since then the gas has been used on considerably more than thrice that number of cases, always with the same satisfactory results.

**Doctor Rosenau Goes to North Carolina.**—Dr. M. J. Rosenau, recently retired as dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, has been appointed director of a newly organized Department of Public Health in the University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill. This development involves the coordination of the staff and facilities of the North Carolina State Board of Health and the state schools of medicine and engineering.

Doctor Rosenau, one of the foremost authorities in preventive medicine and public health, as a surgeon in the United States Public Health Service was stationed at Angel Island more than thirty years ago, after bubonic plague first appeared in California. Two years ago he gave extended courses in public health administration at the University of California, Berkeley. It is doubtful that any other individual has achieved a more enviable record as an educator in public health, generally, than has Doctor Rosenau.

**Sylvatic Plague.**—The growing menace of sylvatic plague in the rodent population of California and the West, was made the subject of a special instructional short course conducted by the state university, state and federal experts, as a means of promoting widespread control. The course was under the direction of the Western Branch of the American Public Health Association.

The plague, which has some baffling aspects, and which is a direct menace to public health, has now spread to a number of points throughout the West, and has caused a few human fatalities. The existence of the menace has occasioned the selection of a special committee by the Public Health Association, the head of this committee being Dr. Karl F. Meyer, director of the Hooper Foundation, University of California.

University technicians, executives of the state and federal public health services and representatives of the federal biologic survey and the State Department of Agriculture, who were invited to lecture, included: Dr. Walter M. Dickie, director of the State Department of Public Health; Dr. Wilfred H. Kellogg, director of the State hygienic laboratory; Dr. Tracy I. Storer and Dr. Morris A. Stewart, University of California technicians; Dr. R. B. Parker, Hamilton, Montana, director of the Rocky Mountain laboratory of the United States Public Health Service; W. C. Jacobsen, supervisor of rodent control, State Department of Agriculture; E. E. Horn, United States Biological Survey, and Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, professor of pharmacology, University of California Medical School.

**Mental Test for Chronic Speeders.**—Persons who are obviously unfit to drive an automobile or who repeatedly and chronically defy or ignore public safety mechanisms and regulations, should be subjected to a mental and physical examination. This is the opinion of Dr. E. W. Twitchell, clinical professor of neuropsychiatry of the University of California Medical School. According to Doctor Twitchell it would not be practicable to subject every driver or prospective driver to such an examination, but it certainly should be done in the case of those who persistently defy necessary driving restrictions and menace the lives and limbs of others.

According to Doctor Twitchell the automobile mortality and accident situation may be expected to become much worse before the people of the country rise up and unitedly demand relief. The number of incompetents now driving cars is constantly on the increase, and it is presumed that this number must increase to the saturation point of human tolerance and endurance before there is a change.

Doctor Twitchell states he has occasionally found it necessary to submit reports to the State Division of Motor Vehicles regarding patients who were obviously unfit to drive. In one instance, he said he obtained cancellation of the license of one insane man who was being permitted to operate his car freely on crowded streets and highways. Another, a taxicab driver in one of the San Mateo peninsula towns, who was suffering from a severe nervous complaint, also came to his attention, and he has warned a number of epileptics and members of their families that these sick persons should not drive an automobile.

**American Medical Association Annual Session.**—California members appearing on the American Medical Association Program at Kansas City.

W. J. Kerr, chairman of Section on Medicine.

Leon Goldman, San Francisco, Section on Surgery.

Lyle G. McNeile, Los Angeles, Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology.

William B. Thompson, Los Angeles, Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Howard F. West, Los Angeles, Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Warren D. Horner, San Francisco, Section on Ophthalmology.

Otto Barkan, San Francisco, Section on Ophthalmology.

Edward C. Sewall, San Francisco, Section on Nose and Throat.

H. J. Profant, Santa Barbara, Section on Nose and Throat.

Albert W. Snoke, San Francisco, Section on Pediatrics.

Clifford W. Sweet, Oakland, Section on Pediatrics.

Emil Bogen, Olive View, Section on Pediatrics.

M. A. Gifford, Bakersfield, Section on Pediatrics.

Chauncey D. Leake, San Francisco, Section on Pharmacology.

Henry W. Newman, San Francisco, Section on Nervous and Mental.

J. M. Nielsen, Los Angeles, Section on Nervous and Mental.

John B. Doyle, Los Angeles, Section on Orthopedics.

Ellis W. Jones, Los Angeles, Section on Orthopedics.

John C. Wilson, Los Angeles, Section on Orthopedics.

Sylvan L. Haas, San Francisco, Section on Orthopedics.

LeRoy C. Abbott, San Francisco, Section on Orthopedics.

W. H. Kiger, Los Angeles, Section on Proctology.

Wilbur Bailey, Los Angeles, Section on Radiology.

**New York City Lowers Five Health Records.**—Dr. John L. Rice, commissioner of health, city of New York, has reported to an organization of milk dealers concerning the remarkable achievements of his department in 1935 as follows:

"During 1935 New York City established five new records, the lowest general death rate (based on the estimated population), the lowest infant mortality rate that the city has ever known, the lowest diphtheria rate, the lowest typhoid rate, and the lowest tuberculosis rate. You have been in the milk business long enough to know the relationship between a safe milk supply and the prevalence of typhoid, tuberculosis, and deaths of infants."

**American Public Health Association.**—Drawn from every state in the Union, from Canada, Cuba and Mexico, officials from the various branches of federal, state, city, and county health departments and other agencies active in disease prevention and health promotion will gather in New Orleans on October 20 to 23 for its sixty-fifth annual meeting.

Dr. Thomas A. Parran, Jr., Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service, is president-elect of the Association and will be honored at New Orleans.

National headquarters of the American Public Health Association are 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York, N. Y., and Dr. Reginald M. Atwater is executive secretary.

**Accidental Deaths Bring Heavy Losses.**—There were 543 accidental deaths recorded in California last November, 295 of which (55 per cent) were due to automobile accidents. There were 138 deaths due to accidents in the home—more than 25 per cent. There were but 75 deaths due to other public accidents (not motor vehicle) and only 31 accidental deaths occurred in the occupational group—less than 6 per cent of the total.

Of the 295 motor-vehicle deaths, 118 were of persons gainfully employed at times of the accidents. Of the total number, 72 were of persons under twenty-five years of age and 223 were of persons twenty-five years of age and over. Eighteen such deaths were among individuals under fifteen years of age.

**The Pan-Pacific Surgical Congress: Honolulu, Hawaii.**—The forthcoming meeting (August 6 to 14) of this internationally important organization offers a gorgeous vacation prospect for the summer of 1936. Leaving Los Angeles on August 1 (San Francisco, July 31), the United States and Canadian contingent will have five matchless days on the summer Pacific to enjoy themselves without stint, and to consolidate themselves into the American delegation. As a background to a series of brilliant social occasions in honor of visiting international authorities, delegates and their families will enjoy the modern pageantry of ship life at its apex. Pacific luxury liners will offer the attractions of tennis courts, gymnasium, outdoor swimming pool, and a dozen fascinating deck sports, the library or spacious music rooms, while the gay rhythm of the night club, scarcely an octave away, will lure many. Last, but not least, there is the well-renowned culinary magic which emanates from the kitchens of these floating palaces. Even under ordinary circumstances such a prospect might be considered extraordinarily attractive. Combining it in prospect with frequent informal conferences and round-table discussions, and with constant cordial interchange of scientific opinion and the opportunity to meet and know interesting personalities, the prognosis is excellent to a degree.

With judgment born of true wisdom the Program Committee has allotted five days, the first five days in Honolulu, to the relaxations and enjoyments for which Hawaii is noted. Accommodations will be at the matchless Royal Hawaiian. Everything is available to gladden the heart of the enthusiastic vacationist: The famous beaches for swimming, surf boarding, fishing, tennis, motor trips, a two days' airplane tour of the most beautiful islands in the Pacific, inspection of volcanoes, visits to native villages, a night at the famous Mauna-Seaside Hotel, golf at the famous Waialae Club, and a galaxy of brilliant social functions available or not, according to the mood of the voyager. Finally, and most important, the unstinted famous hospitality of our hosts, the physicians of Honolulu. Five days of unmitigated pleasure in a vacation setting second to none in the world!

Little need be said of the scientific sessions beyond the fact that the programs in the various sessions are solid with the names of international authorities. Leaving aside the aspect of international exchange of opinion, this meeting would be identified as outstanding merely by the authoritative names on the program. Considering its potentialities, however, for the adjustment of moot points in international concept, for example, the matter of basic methods of compiling statistics for comparison between nations—the consideration of conservative versus radical measures in the management of medical and surgical conditions as practiced and advocated in different countries. Such matters and a hundred others will most certainly bring out of these scientific sessions not only personal advancement in intellectual concepts, but actual trends of thought of a sort which lead to world-wide scientific advancement. Many physicians or surgeons may well feel privileged to contribute, in however conspicuous a manner, to discussion of such basic potentiality.

Returning, the delegates and their families will have another five days of ship life; another leisurely period in which to relax and digest the mental pabulum of the scientific sessions; more opportunities to exchange opinions and to gather loose ends. Returning voyagers will have a day in Los Angeles, arriving in Los Angeles August 20, and may continue to San Francisco the following day, arriving in San Francisco August 22. Inquirers will find, to their surprise, that the total cost of such a trip is scarcely more than a trip to any meeting in the East. There can be little comparison in matter of returns. These sessions are outstandingly attractive from so many angles that the consideration of cost and time involved becomes minimized. Where there is the remotest possibility of completing arrangements eventually, inquiries should be made at once, since the registration and sailing list is mounting rapidly. Information is available elsewhere in this journal.\* Dr. George W. Swift at 902 Boren Avenue, Seattle, is president and general chairman of the meeting.

\* See adv. page 23.

**Degree of Doctor of Medicine (Honorary) Bestowed on Dr. Karl F. Meyer.**—On Wednesday evening, April 23, 1936, in the headquarters building of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the faculty, alumni, and invited guests of the College of Medical Evangelists of Los Angeles met in special convocation to hear an address on the subject, "Neutropic Viruses and Diseases Caused by Them," delivered by Dr. Karl F. Meyer, director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research and professor of bacteriology in the University of California. At the conclusion of the guest-speakers' address, Dr. Percy T. Magan, president of the College of Medical Evangelists, spoke of the many medical researches that had been carried on by Professor Meyer in his work at the Hooper Foundation, of the inestimable value these studies had been to medicine in general and to California physicians in particular; stating that because of this service to the State's citizens and medical profession, the trustees and faculty construed it an honor to bestow upon Professor Meyer the degree of Doctor of Medicine, honorary. Dr. Howard Morrow, president of the California State Board of Health and professor of dermatology in the University of California, was called on and he also told of the place Doctor Meyer had made for himself since coming to California, expressing the thought that since Doctor Meyer was so constantly called in consultation by California physicians to aid in solving obscure problems in medicine, the degree granted by the College was most worthily bestowed, and a proper addition to the other degrees that had been earned by the recipient. Dr. Edward M. Pallette, president-elect of the California Medical Association, followed with thoughts in similar vein, mentioning also that practically all the public health regulations of California, dealing with the important canning industry of the State, had been largely elaborated by Doctor Meyer, and so efficiently that the material returns to California citizens therefrom could be estimated only in income returns of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. The convocation was preceded by a dinner, Dr. Benton N. Culver acting as toastmaster, and Professor Meyer being introduced by Dr. Wilton L. Halverson, health officer of Pasadena.

**Committee for the Study of Suicide.**—An organization to be known as the Committee for the Study of Suicide, Inc., was incorporated last December under the laws of the State of New York and began its activities early in January.

The committee plans to undertake a comprehensive study of suicide as a social and psychologic phenomenon. To achieve this the following general outline was adopted.

1. *Intramural studies* of individuals inclined to suicide in selected hospitals for mental diseases.

2. *Extramural studies* of ambulatory cases afflicted with suicidal trends or with obsessional wishes for their own death.

3. *Social studies* of suicide will be undertaken along the following general lines. Various attempts at suicide will be followed up by experienced psychiatric social workers; all cases will be studied from the standpoint of social background and history and those who failed in their attempts or have recovered from injuries following a partially successful attempt (prolonged unconsciousness or physical illness) will be urged to submit to psychiatric and psycho-analytic treatment in the hands of the intra- or extramural therapeutic agencies which will be available to the committee.

4. *Ethnologic studies*, that is, comprehensive investigation of suicide among primitive races, will be one of the first concerns of the committee, for suicide is a rather frequent occurrence among many primitive races still extant and when studied may throw some light on suicide as a psychobiologic phenomenon.

5. *Historical studies* of suicide will be pursued systematically under the auspices of the committee, so as to make available a scientific history of the phenomenon as a social and medico-psychologic problem.

The committee was organized under the guidance of its first chairman, the late Dr. Mortimer Williams Raynor,

medical director of Bloomingdale Hospital, who died on October 5, 1935.

Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, professor of the history of medicine at Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Edward Sapir, professor of anthropology at Yale University, are consultant members of the committee. They will advise and guide in that part of the work which touches their respective fields.

The executive offices of the committee are located at Room 1404, the Medical Arts Center, 57 West Fifty-Seventh Street, New York City, and will be in charge of an executive assistant.

**Bacillus He Defeated Is Fatal to Doctor.**—In every country of the world today there are men, women and children alive because forty-five years ago an earnest young physician and a grizzled medical educator risked horrible deaths to identify and give battle to a tiny bacillus that had been killing men since time immemorial.

The young physician and his teacher won a fight against the germ and both were honored throughout the world.

Ten billion bacilli might have laughed today, for on April 13 the earnest young physician died, at sixty-five, of gas gangrene, the revolting disease that he fought and whipped forty-five years ago.

He was Dr. Harlow Brooks of New York, one of the foremost diagnostic physicians of the United States. His collaborator of the nineties, Dr. William H. Welch, died several years ago. And even the laboratory assistant who aided them was made a widow by the same bacilli, for she became Mrs. Harlow Brooks in 1899.

The germs that caused Doctor Brooks' death are known as Welch's bacilli, in honor of the senior of their discoveries. They normally are present in the majority of human bodies, but become potent only in a condition of bodily debility. Doctor Brooks had been ill of gripe and a liver infection.

The gas gangrene that caused his death is so called because the bacilli that cause it produce great quantities of gas inside the body. Before he and Doctor Welch isolated the germ, it always was fatal. It still is one of the most dangerous of the ills of mankind.

#### **Federal Food and Drug Administration Reports.**

The following patent medicines were recently seized on charges of bearing false and fraudulent curative claims for the conditions named: "Bi-Sarcol," a solution of vegetable laxatives, licorice, baking soda and other salts in water, for toning the stomach and kidneys, for run-down conditions, and for enriching the blood; "Clark's Famous Liquid Formula No. 6," consisting of kamala, mineral oil, carbon tetrachlorid, turpentine, sassafras and water, for worms in poultry, hogs, dogs, rabbits, and cats; "Diaplex," a dried herb mixture for diabetes; "Gowan's Preparation," a salve containing wintergreen, camphor, eucalyptol, menthol, turpentine and carbolic acid, for pleurisy, spasmodic croup, coughs, congestion, inflammation, and pneumonia; "Kompo Bile Salts Tablets," a red-coated pill containing bile salts, phenolphthalein and small amounts of calcium, magnesium, iron and aluminum salts, for liver and kidney ailments, gall-stones, heart trouble, hardening of the arteries, neuritis, rheumatism, neurasthenia, insomnia, ulcers, and cancer; "Lur-Eye," a petrolatum salve containing principally wintergreen oil and thymol, for tired, blood-shot, or inflamed eyes, and granulated lids; "Pfeiffer's Sore Throat Remedy," a solution of ammonium chlorid, potassium chlorate, sodium benzoate and wintergreen in water and glycerin, for sore throat, tonsillitis, hoarseness, thrush, and ulcerated sore mouth; five "Vegetrate" preparations (called A-44, A-45, A-410, A-417, and BFI), consisting of varying proportions of dried materials, such as garlic, onions, lettuce, parsley, endive, beet tops, spinach, cinnamon, cranberries, seaweed, rhubarb root and calcium carbonate, for hay fever, asthma, diabetes, hypertension, hyperacidity, and other conditions; "G. B. Williams Pills," containing mercury and antimony compounds, laxatives and an alkaloidal drug, for biliousness and liver disorders;

two shipments of witch-hazel, one labeled as a treatment for wounds, painful swellings, lame back, piles, sore throat, neuralgia and rheumatism (the article in this instance was also short volume), and the other for rheumatism and piles; and six ointments and liniments sold at auction, bearing claims for inflammation, congestion, asthma, bronchitis, catarrh, chest colds, sore throat, croup, boils, and pains (Adams Vapor Ointment); for cuts and for healing (Adams Menthol Salve); for nervous headaches, muscular rheumatism and nasal catarrh (Adams Menthol Jelly); for muscular rheumatism, lumbago, stiff neck, neuralgic headache, sciatica, muscular cramp, bronchial cough, spasmodic croup, and acute pleurisy (Adams Painon Liniment); the remaining two being in violation of the Federal Caustic Poison Act.

"Farastan Mono-Iodo-Cinchophen Compound" was also seized because the name was held to be false and misleading, since the article consisted almost entirely of cinchophen (97 per cent).

#### **Unusual Operation by the Late Dr. Saxton T. Pope Is Brought to Light.**

Details of an unusual operation performed by the late Dr. Saxton T. Pope, staff member of the University of California Medical School and former and beloved secretary of the California Medical Association, have just come to light in an article by Isabelle Armstrong, published in the current issue of the Alumni Bulletin of the school.

The article states that while conducting a lecture some years ago, Doctor Pope saw a woman fall from the third story of a building across the street. Excusing himself, he went to her assistance. Some time later he returned with the announcement that he had performed a cesarean operation on the woman, who had been killed in the fall, and had brought forth a living baby.

Doctor Pope was characteristically non-committal regarding the occurrence, but it developed later that the woman had hurled herself from the window for some unknown reason. Seeing that he could not save her, Doctor Pope immediately devoted his attention to the baby, effecting a safe delivery on the spot.

The great versatility of Doctor Pope as a man, as well as his skill as a surgeon are touched upon in the article. He was an accomplished musician, and he also received wide attention as an expert with the bow and arrow. Ishi, the aborigine, who was a charge of the University while a study was being made of his tribe, of which he was the last surviving member, was a friend and companion of Doctor Pope.

## LETTERS

#### **Concerning dinitrophenol as a cause of cataracts: Its use dangerous.**

April 21, 1936.

*To the Editor:*—Commenting on Doctor Rodin's excellent article on dinitrophenol cataract in the April issue (page 276) of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, I wish to state that the list of cases which I have assembled in Southern California has been enlarged since I wrote my discussion for his paper.

I now have a list of twenty-three cases in this section upon which I have complete statistics and checked against duplication. I have sixteen cases from reports in the literature, only three of which occurred in California and, in addition, verbal reports of twenty-two cases from physicians in various parts of this State. Combining these with the thirty-two cases in Rodin's series would make a total of eighty known cases in California. The most disconcerting feature about the recent cases is that they occurred many months after discontinuance of the drug. seventeen proprietary preparations contain this drug, and

In a communication from Doctor Geiger, health officer of San Francisco, I am informed that approximately seventeen proprietary preparations contain this drug, and I